

a1 references a user-selected automation class from an automation type library; an automation open node which instantiates an object from the selected automation class; an automation invoke node which invokes a user-selected method of the automation class; and an automation property node which invokes, i.e., reads or writes, user-selected properties of the automation class. The nodes enable the displaying, manipulating, cataloging, editing or performance other operations, such as may be performed by an automation server, on data acquired or generated by a virtual instrument. A method for performing class propagation and type propagation checking of automation objects in a graphical program is also disclosed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

a2 4. (Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 3, further comprising:

executing the graphical data flow program, wherein said executing includes propagating the reference to the object from the object reference output of the object reference node to the object reference input of the node.

a3 6. (Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the object is comprised in a server, wherein said configuring comprises:

displaying on the screen a list of libraries associated with one or more servers;
selecting a library from the list of libraries in response to user input;
displaying on the screen a list of possible classes from the selected library;
selecting a class from the list of possible classes in response to user input;
wherein the object is instantiated from the class.